



# All Saints' National School

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17<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Board of Management and the school staff have been working to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils and staff on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August. We are currently finalising our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much physical distancing as is possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

Classrooms have been reconfigured to maximise physical distancing. Each classroom will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Within the bubbles, children may be organised into pods. A pod is a small group of children who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom. Bubbles will have access to different areas of the playground. We will make these routines are enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the following drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

It is imperative that:

- A distance of 2 metres between adults should be maintained at all times.
- Meetings between parents and teachers take place by prior arrangement. We are available to support you and your family. Home school communication is very important in our school. Teachers will contact parents to discuss how their child/children are progressing following our initial return to school.
- All parents adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as outlined below.

## Drop-off Plan

All pupils may be dropped at the school gate at the main entrance of the school while adhering to physical distancing measures. Please ensure the pupils are supervised while entering the school building. The pupils will walk straight to their classrooms. The routes of entry are labelled. The junior classes (Junior Infants – Second Class) will enter their classroom through the rear door of the school building. ***Class commences at 9am. Please ensure your child arrives at 9am.*** The senior classes (Third – Sixth Class) will enter their classroom through the front door of the school building at 9am. If a pupil in the senior classroom has a sibling in the junior classroom, they may enter their classroom through the emergency exit door at the rear of the school building.

## Collection Plan

The Junior Infant pupils finish school at the earlier time of 12.45pm from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September inclusive. From Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August Junior Infant pupils will finish at 1.45pm. Junior Infant pupils may be collected when school finishes from the rear door of the school

building. Pupils in First & Second Class may be collected from the rear door of the school building along with their siblings at 2.45pm. The senior pupils will exit school through the main entrance of the school building at 2.45pm. The pupils will be guided through the routines to ensure the safest possible entry and exit to school.

**While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.**

The most up to date travel and public health advice will apply. **Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period.**

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing, etc. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

All Saints' National School appreciates your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. If at all possible we request you not to come onto the school grounds or into the school building unless it is essential. Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all.

Please find attached the following documents for your information. Please note the plans attached are working documents and will be updated over the coming days and weeks as we settle back to school life. These documents are also available to view on our school website. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you require any assistance or further information. Further updates will follow in the coming days.

- Covid-19 Policy Statement
- Covid-19 Response Plan for Primary Schools
- Logistics Plan
- Risk Assessment

Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner at 9am on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to All Saints' National School and meeting our new Junior Infant pupils.

Kind regards,

Linda Dunne  
Chairperson, Board of Management

Andrea McAssey  
Principal